

A. Stan Davis
Leadership Development Consultant

The Greenville Neighborhood Vibrancy Taskforce

Executive Summary Report

The Greenville Neighborhood Vibrancy Taskforce (NVT) has completed its' initial gathering of resident input and is ready to address the priorities outlined in this report. The following summary highlights the project activities in May 2014 and briefly outlines the NVT plans moving forward.

The NVT will consist of the following members serving from May – October 2014:

Ms. Diane Smock (*Co-Chair*) – Greenville Stakeholder
 Rev. Vardrey Fleming (*Co-Chair*) – West Greenville
 Ms. Deborah McKetty – CommunityWorks
 Ms. Mary Cleveland – Greenline-Spartanburg
 Pastor Darian Blue - Nicholtown
 Ms. Margaret McJunkin - Nicholtown
 Ms. Princella Lee-Bridges – Pleasant Valley
 Ms. Jackie Jones – Southernside
 Ms. Stinson Ferguson – Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd
 Mr. Wilfredo Leon –The Latino Newspaper

The following three sessions were used to collect resident information on a series of questions designed to set the direction for the NVT:

Date	Sponsor and Location	Participants
5/12/14	United Way of Greenville County – Greenville Dreams' Monthly Meeting	15
5/17/14	2014 Grassroots Leadership Development Program – United Way of GC	18
5/20/14	The City of Greenville – Allen Temple Community Development Center	45
	Totals	78

Information gathered from the three sessions includes the following highlights:

- 1. What does a vibrant Greenville Neighborhood look like?**
 - Mixed income and mixed use
 - Diverse residents interacting and socializing together
 - Multi-generational common and green spaces
 - Access to affordable housing, transportation and health food
 - Locally owned businesses paying living wages
- 2. What barriers are keeping us from achieving more vibrancy in our Historic Neighborhoods?**
 - Lack of effective communication between residents and government entities
 - Lack of good jobs and jobs training programs
 - Power brokers are making decisions without resident input
 - Lack of funds to meet resident needs (Programming)

3. **What is happening right now in your neighborhood that keeps it from being more vibrant?**
 - Affordable housing prices are unrealistic compared to current residents house values
 - Absentee landlords are not held accountable for maintenance of their property
 - Code enforcement violations are not strict enough
 - Lack of resident participation, leadership and engagement
 - Inadequate transportation
4. **What top three priorities would you recommend the Neighborhood Vibrancy Taskforce focus on to extend Greenville's vibrancy into our Historic Neighborhoods?**

Consensus was reached on the following priorities:

Affordable Housing

- Zoning and proactive planning
- Defining what it means for each neighborhood
- Homeownership and rental rates
- Availability and access to get

Property Maintenance and Code Enforcement

- Stricter landlord accountability
- Stricter enforcement
- Tenant rights

Increasing Communications

- Between City, County and residents
- Multiple modes of communications
- Neighbor-to-neighbor
- Youth civic engagement

Economic Vitality

- Creating living-wage jobs
- Skills building and job training (work keys, financial management education, etc)
- Accessibility and transportation
- Micro-Business Development

NVT Next Steps

- I. Meet with the Co-Chairs to schedule the first NVT meeting for early June.
- II. Refine the public input data for usage in the first NVT meeting.
- III. Conduct first NVT meeting to develop a work plan and timeline to address priorities. Include Sponsors and Advisory Group in the initial meeting.